UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
32nd meeting
held on
Wednesday, 7 December 1994
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 32nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KHAN (Pakistan)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/49/SR.32
21 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

94-82683 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/C.2/49/L.3)

Draft resolution on integration of the Commission on Transnational Corporations into the institutional machinery of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (A/C.2/49/L.3)

1. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.3, recommended the draft text for adoption by consensus.

2. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.3 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 87: MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS (continued) (A/C.2/49/L.6)

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (continued)

Draft resolution on implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (A/C.2/49/L.6)

3. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, said that during the informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.6 and said that a number of revisions to the text had been agreed. In the first preambular paragraph, the phrase "overall framework for economic growth and development" should read "overall framework for sustained economic growth and sustainable development". In the second preambular paragraph, the words "sustained economic growth and sustainable" should be inserted after the word "promoting".

4. Paragraph 1 should be deleted. In paragraph 5, the words "as appropriate" should be inserted before the word "provide". He recommended the draft resolution for adoption.

5. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.6, as orally revised, was adopted.

6. Mr. BELHIMEUR (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77 and China, said that the consensus on the draft resolution just adopted should not obscure the fact that, in the four years since the adoption of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation and the International

Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, little had been accomplished with respect to their implementation. In order to avoid confrontation, the sponsors of the draft resolution had proposed a text which avoided quantification. However, the absence of any reference to specific figures should not serve as a pretext for inaction.

7. The developing countries had abided by virtually all the provisions of the Declaration and the Strategy that applied to them. It was now imperative that the developed countries should do likewise, if the 1996 mid-term review of the implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Declaration and the Strategy was to be more than a mere verbal exercise.

8. Mr. MOJOUKHOV (Belarus) said that in joining in the consensus, his delegation had considered that all the provisions of the Declaration were of equal significance. It attached particular importance to the provisions concerning the need for continuing efforts to integrate the countries in transition into the world economy. His Government would continue to strive to achieve sustainable development as it pursued integration into the world economy.

AGENDA ITEM 88: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued) (A/C.2/49/L.45)

Draft resolution on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (A/C.2/49/L.45)

9. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.45, said that a number of revisions had been agreed upon. Paragraphs 4 and 5 had been merged, so that the third and fourth lines of paragraph 4 read "... international community and requests the Secretary-General ...". In that same paragraph, the words "for consideration" should be inserted after the word "propose", the phrase "and that are ripe for consideration or negotiation in the spirit of renewed dialogue and partnership" should be deleted and the words "which are" should be inserted after "and also". In paragraph 6, the words "Secretary-General to further elaborate his proposal of taking" should be replaced by the words "working group on the agenda for development to give consideration to the proposal of the Secretary-General to take". With those changes, he recommended the draft resolution for adoption.

10. The CHAIRMAN noted that, as the working group on the agenda for development had yet to be established, square brackets would be placed around the words "working group on the agenda for development". The brackets would automatically be removed once the General Assembly had established the working group.

11. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.45, as orally revised, was adopted.

12. Mr. RAMOUL (Algeria) said that the adoption of the draft resolution would sustain the momentum generated by General Assembly resolution 48/165.

(d) CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/49/L.33)

Draft resolution on cultural development (A/C.2/49/L.33)

13. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.33, drew attention to a number of revisions. In paragraph 4, the word "expects" should be replaced by "looks forward to". In paragraph 5, the words "as well as" should be replaced by "and, within existing budgetary resources,". In paragraph 6, the word "undertake" should be replaced by "consider undertaking". Lastly, in paragraph 7, the words "an item" should be replaced by "a sub-item". He recommended the draft resolution for adoption.

14. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.33, as orally revised, was adopted.

(h) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued) (A/C.2/49/L.28 and L.53)

Draft resolutions on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries: International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (A/C.2/49/L.28 and L.53)

15. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.53, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.28. He drew attention to the ninth preambular paragraph, in which the words "and the coordination of international cooperation" should be inserted before the words "for combating", and recommended the revised draft resolution for adoption.

16. Mr. BIAOU (Benin) drew attention to paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.53 and proposed that the words "the designers of" should be inserted before "the logo chosen".

17. The Beninese oral amendment was adopted.

18. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.53, as orally revised and amended, was adopted.

19. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.28 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

AGENDA ITEM 89: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/49/L.8, L.20, L.24 and L.58)

Draft resolutions on the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session (A/C.2/49/L.8 and L.58)

20. Mr. HAMBURGER (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.58, which he was submitting the on the basis of informal

consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.8, and recommended it for adopted by consensus.

21. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.58 was adopted.

22. Mr. BELHIMEUR (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recalled that, in addition to sustainable partnership for development, Agenda 21 stressed the principle of common and differentiated responsibilities of all countries. Sustainable development was thus inseparable from the issue of new and additional resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology, and the future work of the Commission on Sustainable Development must focus on the implementation of the commitments undertaken in that area. Furthermore, the relationship between trade and development should be considered in terms of ensuring meaningful development and not as a pretext for disguised protectionism. The Commission could not hide the fact that the developed partners had the primary responsibility for abandoning non-viable patterns of production and consumption. At the same time, the Rio process required all partners to impose the necessary restrictions to safeguard the interests of present and future generations as well as the planet's present and future ecological balance.

23. Mr. BIOTINO (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, Austria, Finland and Sweden, said that while the text of the draft resolution was an acceptable reflection of the discussions which had taken place during the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, certain misgivings remained about paragraph 3, concerning financial resources for sustainable development. The European Union felt that two years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the progress made in that context should be acknowledged.

24. The replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), specifically the tripling of the size of the core fund, was a major achievement and provided a sound basis for the financing of activities. The draft resolution failed to reflect the fact that the successful restructuring of the GEF governance structure might serve as an example in other areas. In addition, some of the positive policy recommendations of the Commission should have been mentioned in order to give a more balanced picture of its discussions.

25. Mr. ELISSEEV (Ukraine) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution although it did not agree with all its provisions. It was important to approach the socio-economic development of States in a balanced and consistent manner, and his delegation would endeavour to ensure that future draft resolutions of the Second Committee would take into account the specific problems of developing countries as well as those of countries with economies in transition.

26. Mr. MOJOUKHOV (Belarus) said that his delegation had joined the consensus with some reservations, as certain issues had not been duly reflected in the text of the draft resolution. He hoped that in the future the Commission on Sustainable Development and the General Assembly would find adequate

opportunities to react to genuine development efforts being undertaken by the countries with economies in transition. The draft resolution should also have stressed the need for Governments to move from the general principles developed by the Commission to the implementation of concrete measures.

27. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) said that paragraph 5 of the draft resolution would have been clearer had concern been expressed over the implementation of the financial recommendations and commitments of Agenda 21, in particular those dealing with official development assistance.

28. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

Draft resolution on unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas (A/C.2/49/L.20)

29. Mr. HAMBURGER (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, said that in the informal consultations on draft A/C.2/49/L.20 agreement had been reached on a number of amendments to be made to the text. In the fifth preambular paragraph, the world's "largest share" should be replaced by the words "overwhelming proportion". The following new paragraph should be inserted between the fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs:

> "Reaffirming the rights and duties of coastal States to ensure proper conservation and management measures with respect to their living resources in zones under their national jurisdiction in accordance with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,".

30. In paragraph 1 the words "to take measures" should be inserted after the phrase "Law of the Sea". In paragraph 2, a comma should be inserted after the word "efforts", followed by the phrase "including through financial and/or technical assistance,". In paragraph 4, the word "Secretariat" should be replaced by the word "Secretary-General".

31. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines) and Ms. WILLIAMS-STEWART (Samoa) said that they wished to become sponsors of the draft resolution.

32. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.20, as orally revised, was adopted.

33. Mr. SHIBATA (Japan), explaining his delegation's position, said that his Government condemned wanton acts of poaching in waters of national jurisdiction and strongly supported the strengthening of measures to ensure that all fishing operations were conducted in a responsible manner. He drew the Committee's attention to the discussions taking place in a number of international forums concerning measures for conserving and managing the world's fishery resources, such as the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and the ongoing talks on an international code of conduct for responsible fishing organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The measures called for in the draft resolution just

adopted should not be construed as prejudging the outcome of those discussions or undermining the efforts of existing management arrangements.

34. Mr. RYDENSKY (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had supported the draft resolution because the Russian Federation had suffered substantial damage from unauthorized fishing of migratory species in its economic zone, especially in the Bering Straits and the Barents and Okhotsk Seas. It hoped that the resolution would help to solve that problem.

35. Mr. Hong Jae IM (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation fully shared the view that all fishing operations should be conducted in a responsible manner. Like Japan, however, it wished to draw attention to the fact that a number of relevant international forums were addressing the conservation and management of marine living resources. The draft resolution just adopted should neither prejudge the outcome nor undermine the ongoing efforts of those forums. Coastal States had the main duty of preventing unauthorized fishing, but all States should be partners in conserving living marine resources.

36. Ms. YANG Yanyi (China) said that her Government had long supported measures to control unauthorized fishing, since overfishing was the main reason for the decline of many fish stocks. Coastal States bore the main responsibility for limiting unauthorized fishing. China would participate in the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and would work to implement its recommendations.

37. Mr. BURHAN (Turkey) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution, but wished to remind Committee members that Turkey had been unable to sign the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea because of that instrument's lack of adequate provisions for special geographical circumstances and its resulting inability to strike a satisfactory balance between conflicting interests. Moreover, the Convention stipulated that no reservations could be registered on specific clauses.

38. Accordingly, he wished to clarify that Turkey interpreted the references to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in the new preambular paragraph which the Vice-Chairman had just read out and in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution as pertaining to international law on fishing matters as reflected in the relevant articles of the Convention of the Law of the Sea.

39. Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America) said that, in the view of her delegation, the draft resolution complemented the work of the Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

Draft decision on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas (A/C.2/49/L.24)

40. Mr. HAMBURGER (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, said that, as a result of the informal consultations, a number of amendments had been proposed to paragraph (c) of the draft decision. First, the phrase "the measures taken and" should be added after the word "despite". Secondly, the phrase "that their

nationals and fishing vessels comply" should be replaced by the words "full compliance". Lastly, the phrase "their nationals and fishing vessels that act" should be replaced by the words "consistent with international law, acts".

41. The CHAIRMAN announced that Argentina, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia had joined in sponsoring the draft decision.

42. Draft decision A/C.2/49/L.24 as orally revised, was adopted.

43. Mr. LOZANO (Mexico) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus because it recognized the importance of protecting living marine resources. It believed that the imposition of appropriate sanctions on violators of General Assembly resolution 46/215, as called for in paragraph (c), was entirely appropriate.

(d) ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA (continued) (A/C.2/49/L.13, L.30 and L.54)

Draft resolutions on elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (A/C.2/49/L.13 and L.30)

44. Mr. HAMBURGER (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.30, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.13, and recommended it for adoption by consensus.

45. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.30, which was contained in document A/C.2/49/L.54.

46. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.30 was adopted.

47. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines) said that, as a member of the Group of 77, his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution. However, the Philippines believed that the problems of humid tropical countries that had been affected by drought had not been given full consideration in the Convention. It appeared that elements pertaining to the problem of drought had been deleted from the Convention before its signing in Paris. He therefore urged the international community to view drought as a critical element in sustainable development.

48. Mr. RAMOUL (Algeria) said that no continent had been spared desertification but that its effects were particularly severe in the southern hemisphere, especially in Africa. As measures to combat its effects were beyond the means of most of the afflicted countries, the adoption of the draft resolution would give them renewed hope. It was imperative for the Convention to enter into force as soon as possible. With regard to the programme budget implications of

the draft resolution, the Group of 77 considered the proposed allocation to be the minimum required to allow the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to complete its work.

49. Mr. BIAOU (Benin) said that the adoption of the draft resolution was another step towards implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. It had been impossible to reflect the interests of all States in the Convention, but the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee ought to remedy any omissions at its future sessions. He appealed for assistance to African countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

50. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.13 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

AGENDA ITEM 90: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/49/133-E/1994/49 and Add.1, A/49/326)

51. The CHAIRMAN read out the text of a proposed draft decision by which the Committee would take note of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on field representation of United Nations system organizations: a more unitary approach, contained in document A/49/133-E/1994/49 and Add.1, and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children, contained in document A/49/326.

52. Mr. RAMOUL (Algeria) said that, with regard to the first document, it had been his delegation's understanding that, with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 48/209 on field offices of the United Nations development system, the Committee would not need to return to the matter at the current session.

53. Mr. STOBY (Director, Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs) said that the draft decision was purely procedural and had no substantive or policy implications.

54. Mr. RAMOUL (Algeria) said that the Group of 77 would prefer to hold informal consultations before accepting the proposal.

ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING SPONSORSHIP OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

55. The CHAIRMAN said that Australia and Mexico had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.41, submitted under agenda item 92.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.